

District VI Advisory Board
Minutes
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Monday
March 1, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Evergreen Recreation Center
2700 N. Woodland
Lounge Clubroom

The District VI Advisory Board meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Recreation Center Lounge Clubroom 2700 N. Woodland. District VI councilwoman led the meeting with eight (8) District Advisory Board members in attendance, six (6) city staff and thirteen (13) members of the public who signed in.

Members Present

Pat Randleas
Scott Dunakey
Charlie Claycomb
Carol Skaff
John VanWalleghen
Marsha Carr
Bob Aldrich
Jaya Escobar

Members Absent

Staff Present

Officer Cole, Fire
Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant
Officer Birdwell, Patrol West
Officer Jerrell, Patrol North
Officer Schweithale, Patrol South
Jennifer Heineke, Library

Council Member Janet Miller called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. welcoming everyone. **Miller** asked members to introduce themselves and state their representation on the board.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted. (**Claycomb/Carr 7-0**)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for February 1 were approved as submitted (**Aldrich/Claycomb 7-0**) and February 17, 2010 were approved as submitted. (**Aldrich/Skaff 7-0**)

Public Agenda

1. **Scheduled items:** *Marvin Stang, 4124 Westport* discussed fliers that are delivered and are everywhere on the streets and in the gutters. *Stang* said this litter needed to be cleaned up. He owns a property at 2500 N. Waco that is empty and has to constantly pick up these fliers. *Stang* stated the people that print these advertisements are responsible and when they deliver them if they see the previous ones haven't been picked up do not throw any more. You can drive down the streets and see these fliers everywhere but no one seems to care. **Miller** said to him that a lot of people can identify with his concern. **Skaff** said to look inside the publication and contact them to take your address off the list for delivery.

Escobar arrived at 6:39 p.m.

Randleas stated if the Wichita Eagle throws them they should pick them up. **Miller** stated the city also has a concern about this weekly delivery that is left on vacant locations and would need to review her emails on this topic as it has been discussed before tonight.

Aldrich stated he has complained to the Eagle about this but nothing was done. They need to be re-delivered to the Wichita Eagle. *Stang* went on to say the streets are not getting swept except for every 30 days and with all the leaves down it causes a mess clogging the storm drains. Long ago the City says we'll give you service but they don't and now the area homes are being fixed but the streets stay the same.

2. **Off-agenda items:** No items were discussed.

***** **Action:** Provide comments/take appropriate action.

Staff Presentations

3. Community Police Report

Patrol West: *Officer Birdwell* for Beat 11, 14 and 18 reported the crime trends at present are good due to citizens calling in reports and neighbors staying aware of what's going on in their area. We did have some issues with domestic violence and when this happens we have a Victim Advocate Unit that meets with the victim and helps give them resources they made need to acquire. *Birdwell* continued that in Riverside Park along Stackman Drive signs have been installed to not feed the wildlife. Feeding the wildlife erodes the soil and plants won't grow, along with the geese cross the road to eat and can get hit by a car. **Aldrich** asked if there were any ramifications if one (geese) gets hit. *Birdwell* stated he wasn't sure. **Miller** asked for clarification that the signage marks the area where they don't want the wildlife to be fed, correct? *Birdwell* responded that was correct.

Patrol North: *Officer Jerrell*- Beat 41 reported there have been burglaries to resident's sheds by cutting the locks. Please keep an eye out as they are looking for yard equipment to sell. *Jerrell* also reported on the Anti-Gang Walk that would take place on April 3rd where the route consists of beginning at North High down Arkansas to 21st along 21st to Waco then back south to the old Dillon's store at 13th. He said there would be clergy and other speakers about the event with informational booths for viewing. Officers have been already handing out fliers to the surrounding neighborhoods. **Randleas** asked where 41 Beat is as there are three-wheelers on the Big Ditch. *Jerrell* responded that wasn't his area and she needed to call 911 when you see this.

Patrol South: *Officer Schweithale* -Old Town reported there had been 11 larcenies in the past month. Officers were working an undercover assignment and were able to arrest one person and find out info about other larcenies that took place in the Old Town parking garage, the Hyatt and Gander Mountain. **Skaff** mentioned there was someone sleeping behind 239 N. Mosley near the mechanical boxes and if he could have someone please check on it. *Schweithale* said he would go out and talk to them. **Skaff** said it was on city property and they were gone during the day. *Schweithale* said he would have *Officer Carlson* go check and reminded everyone to please keep valuable items covered in their cars as people doing these crimes are zigzagging between cars and looking for anything they can steal.

Aldrich asked if there had been any problems with the George Strait concert. *Schweithale* said no reports or complaints and so far all the concerts were running smoothly. We'll see how everything goes for the Elton John/Billie Joel concert and as the weather gets warmer we may see more problems. **Carr** stated near the Murdock Roundabout along Waco/Murdock they are panhandling - they hide behind the Riverside sign. Who do we call when we see this? *Schweithale* told her to call 911 and officers will come out and talk to them. **Miller** asked isn't this prohibited by ordinance. *Schweithale* responded if they are coming up and asking for something yes it is prohibited but if they are sitting with a sign asking for food or work we can just ticket them for soliciting. **Skaff** said you can get a temporary license to ask for money so there needs to be some clarification made.

Escobar stated the vacant Coleman building at Second/Emporia looks like people are living in it. Response was a new owner has bought the building and this issue will be looked at eventually. *Jerrell* stated about panhandling if you want something done you will need to stay and talk to police when they come out.

*******Action:** Receive and file

4. Fire Department Report

Battalion Chief Cole reported the district did not have much to report as far as fires were considered but they did come across a hoarder. We had a medical call for a 400 lb. man who had to be taken out thru the window. *Cole* said if you know of anyone like this to please notify the Fire Safety division so they can talk and educate the community. *Melissa Alley, Riverside* asked who you call about hoarders. *Cole* responded it wasn't really a situation for firefighters unless it was an emergency but we do need to know about these people in case of a fire we worry about how we can get people out. *Jerrell* responded to call the Adult Protective Service of SRS.

Aldrich asked if there was any ordinance about hoarding. *Cole* said it is an individual right as your home is your castle unless you are in danger and said if you see hoarding in the yard it is an OCI issue.

***** **Action:** Receive and file

New Business

5. New Central Library Building Program

Jennifer Heinicke, Librarian presented on the fourteen steps taken for creation of a new Central Public Library that included data collection about current library space allocations and use patterns, interviews and focus groups, surveys and charrettes. Through these steps, requirements for each component of the proposed building were established and prioritized. Appropriate adjacencies of spaces were developed so that efficiencies in use and service delivery can be ensured. Seating in the new facility would increase from 260 to 398 spaces, shelves for materials would grow from 13,988 to 20,343, the number of public computers would grow from 31 to 101 and seats in meeting rooms would expand from 260 to 687. Using these guidelines, the program anticipates design of a facility approximately 156,400 s.f.

Heinicke included there were two alternate program options created: one that reduces the anticipated size of the new facility to that initially identified in the master plan, and a smaller facility driven by authorized funding in the Capital Improvement Program. The Library Board rejected the two facility alternates, opting to endorse only the largest of the facility options to create long term value to the community.

Aldrich wanted everyone to know his wife serves on the Library Board and his comments tonight on the presentation are strictly his own.

Heinicke said the public is relying more and more on Library use especially in these tough economic times. The site for the new library would be at 2nd /McLean near Delano along a cultural corridor but would still be near the downtown area.

DAB Members made the following questions and concerns: *Responses in Italics*

- The money should be spent for land acquisition and you can acquire amenities later. The longer you wait the more expensive things get.
- Are you looking at other funding sources to raise money?
- Make sure the building is large enough for room to grow. We don't want to build and then we outgrow it right away.
- Very exciting project.
- Since you are tripling the amount of computers-have you thought about when they need updated? *We pay our IT department a replacement fund for computers and the new computers will be put into the same plan.*
- Have you come up with a plan for working with the homelessness issue you already have as far as security? *The Task Force is reviewing this at present. We hope to have the same form of security like at city hall on our first floor in two locations.*
- Will there be any space for WPD to be housed in?
- Looks great and looking forward to the teen area.
- What will happen to the old building? *We are reviewing the use and have already seen interest in the building from other businesses.*
- Please don't make this a monument to the architect.

Melissa Alley, Library Board member stated she uses the library personally and knows that staff has worked hard to design the spaces for the needs of the public. The company hired specializes in Libraries and realizes that this library is the hub of Wichita. At present, 50% of the computer usages are for job search and with this new facility we can help more citizens.

Pastor Dave Fulton St. Paul's Lutheran Church lives near 21st/Maize said he helped with the process when building the Library in Topeka while he lived there. He said it was a very public process when it was built and they have around 300 computers. *Fulton* asked *Heinicke* if she wanted she could take her presentation to various churches. **Miller** said Topeka has a really cool library.

***** **Action:**

Randleas left at 8:00 pm

6. **Safe Streets Wichita**

Pastor Dave Fulton presented on the vision for Safe Streets which is a network of organized neighborhoods partnering with the faith community, each having the power and resources to reduce illegal activities and increase the safety and health of its residents. Safe Streets program is also part of the organization Partners for Wichita working to help develop a new Weed and Seed community. *Fulton* stated the group works with youth, police and neighborhoods.

The Safe Streets program has job-shared two employees working part-time Randy Wells and Cindy Galstad. A year ago they were asked to prepare a Weed/Seed grant which is a 50/50 partnership over five (5) years to rid an area of crime and revitalize by getting the community involved and help improve their quality of life. Randy and Cindy have been working close with St. Patrick's parishioners along with Police to teach them it's time to say we don't want crime in our areas anymore. They have offered informational sessions, a national night out event and neighborhood clean-ups. Most recently they had a presentation from Crime Stoppers and the next day one of the people reported their neighbor was selling drugs and a very large amount of marijuana was found and arrests were made. This person was brave enough to make the call to police.

Miller stated that police are working hard to build connection with the neighbors and *Officer Jerrell* has played a key instrument in the success.

Carr asked if the Hispanic radio was a sponsor for the Walk against Gang Violence. The response was yes.

Aldrich said the Safe Streets was going in the right direction to help with the 21st street revitalization.

***** **Action:** Receive and File

Board Agenda

7. **Problem Properties**

Graffiti: on the northwest square column on Nims Bridge and also Griffenstein

***** **Action:** Receive and propose appropriate action.

8. **Neighborhood Reports**

Riverside Citizens Association: reported damage to trees along Nims to 11th street due to beavers. The truck in the area previously reported is finally gone.

***** **Action:** Receive and file.

Updates from the councilmember

Announcements

- Next DAB meeting will be on Wednesday, March 17, 2010

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. (**Dunakey/Claycomb 7-0**)

Guests

Dick L. Siemer
Denise O'Leary-Siemer
Melissa Alley
Tom Carr
Marvin & Mary Jo Stang
Elizabeth Trueb W
Joel Weibe
Christine Eberle
Dan Manning
Brett Barrientos
Jerry Prichard
Leonard Hicks

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant